पेट्रोलियम और रसायन मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री और संचार मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (श्री जय प्रकाश) : (क) जी, हां।

(ख) वर्ष 1988-89 के दौरान, 26,352 व्यक्तियों को नई सीधी एक्सचेंज लाइनें प्रदान की गई। 31-12-90 की स्थिति के अनुसार सीधी एक्सचेंज लाइनों की कुल संख्या 4,82,435 थी।

(ग) ब्यौरे संलग्न विवरण में दिये गए हैं।

विवरण

मं०ट०नि०लि० की दिल्ली यूनिट में नवनियुक्त कर्मचारियों के वर्ष-वार ब्यौरे

	1988-89	1989-90	1-4 90 से 31-12-90 तक
(i) इंजीनियर	32	37	112*
(ii) अन्य अधीनस्थ कर्मचारी	557	71	—
कुल :	589	108	112

*सितम्बर/अक्तूबर, 1990 में बड़ी संख्या में कनिष्ठ दूरसंचार अधिकारियों को सहायक इंजीनियर के पद पर उन्नत किया गया और पदोन्नतियां दी गई।

Head Post Offices in Tamil Nadu

391. SHRI R. T. GOPALAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are names of the districts in Tamil Nadu which do not have Head Post Office;

(b) whether Government propose to open at least one Head Post Office in each district preferably at district headquarter; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAI PRAKASH): (a) All the Districts in Tamil Nadu are having Head Post Offices.

(b) and (c). No, Sir.

Refuelling of US planes

392. SHRI R. GANESAN *alias* MISA R. GANESAN:

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times the US planes halted in our airports for refuelling since 2nd August, 1990;

(b) the number of such flights per month and the total quantity of fuel provided each month;

(c) when this facility was provided initially to the USA by Government; and

(d) whether Government propose to review this facility in view of Gulf War and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) In the context of Gulf crisis, 136 US Air Force transport aircraft refuelled at Indian airports.

(b) The number of flihts in January 1991, were 78 and in February 1991, 58. Total amount of fuel supplied was approximately 32 lakh litres.

(c) In the present context, the transit and refuelling facilities were provided from 28th December, 1990.

(d) No refuelling has taken place since 20th February, 1991.

Second U.S. super computer to India

393. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

SHRIMATI KAILASHPATI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US Government has agreed to supply the second Super Compu-

ter to India; if so, what is the model; where it would be located and what will be its use;

(b) whether the US Government have laid down any conditions for the supply and use of the second Super Computer;

(c) whether the first Super Computer is being manned by Indian staff completely or there are any Americans associated with its functioning; and

(d) whether there are any condiitons laid down for its use by the United States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) The US Government have decided in principle, to issue and export licence for the Second Super Computer, subjct to an agreement of the terms and conditions of the sale. The model is a Cray YMP-XEA-132. It will be located at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore and it will be used for research in science and engineering.

(b) Ys, Sir. The agreement for the supply and use of the Second Super Computer is under negotiation.

(c) Yes, Sir, except for the contracted maintenance engineers, who include British and US nationals.

(d) Yes, Sir. The use of the first Super Computer is governed by an agreement between India and the USA.

Effect of burning oil wells in the Gulf on the Ecological atmosphere of India

394. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA:
SHRIMATI KAILASHPATI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are awaro of the warning of Japanese Oceanographer Professor Yasuhiro Sugimori that the massive oil slick gushing out into the Gulf could drift as far the Bay of Bengal;

(b) whether Government have also studied the impact of layers of smoke likely to emanate from the burning oil wells in the Gulf on the ecological atmosphere of the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government of India thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) According to the studies made, the current oil slick would mostly dissipate before reaching Indian waters and there is no cause for undue concern regarding the effect of oil-well fires on our atmosphere. However, constant vigil is exercised by the Goverenment in this regard.

Sanction of funds for purchase of vessels

395. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the growth of shipping industry is hampered due to delay in sanctioning of funds for purchase of vessels;

(b) the number of vessels purchased by Shipping Corporation of India and by private shipping corporation during the last three years and time taken in sanctioning of funds for their purchase in each case; and

(c) what steps have been taken or are being taken to streamline the procedure to avoid delay in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) The lack of growth of shipping industry was due to several factors such as recessionary trends in the shipping industry world-wide between 1980 and 1987, rapid increase in the ship prices during certain periods etc. In a small way, the pressure on foreign exchange resources of the country has also been a limiting factor. As regards ship acquisitions by Shipping Corporation of India, in addition to the above limiting factors, some delay was caused due to the prescribed Government procedure in respect of purchases of Public Sector Companies.

(b) Information in regard to Shipping Corporation of India and Private Shipping